[Email exchange between myself and Jennifer Lockhart]

[From ME on 9/23/2021]

Dr. Lockhart,

I am writing to see about meeting you to ask some questions about studying philosophy as well as to make some personal statements.

1.) I feel like my sense of self has been destroyed since studying philosophy(this is sentimental language--I don't know if it's even right but it's what I feel like I have to say). It might not just be the philosophy, there were several other emotionally intense events which preceded this 'destruction', and I think maybe COVID-19 has exasperated it, but at this point I feel like a shell of a person. I no longer trust myself to make good decisions for myself or anyone else because I have been so unreasonable and lived in such a hypocritical way. I feel like when I took your ethics class(which I feel lucky to have taken at the time I did in my life) I, for a variety of reasons, began to feel a deep shame at my lack of goodness(in terms of accomplishments, character, etc.) I have gone back and forth like crazy between different ways of looking at this, trying to suss this all out but it has been a mostly fruitless endeavor. Endless thinking about the nature of philsoophy, emotions, ethics, and various other philosophical topics aimed at the development of some coherent understanding of my reactions, but I have been unable to do so. I think it started off as a mix of respect for you and anger at you for, what I took to be, slighting me in an argument. I think I wanted to philosophically humiliate you at first but then I started appreciating the depth of your teaching and reading your actual published philosophy(reading analytic philosophy in general makes me feel inadequate as an arguer because it is so well understood by some people). From then(until just recently where my feelings have become more stable), I would almost have mood swings between viewing you as this idealized person with desirable virtue and knowledge to my anger at you for what I took to be a needless “debasing” of my values somehow(I had different theories about this…). Sometimes I would be able to ignore it for some time but I just feel(in totality) like I can’t/shouldn’t anymore.

2.) at some point I honestly began to feel like I was in love with you(I’m not sure if this is connected to the shame I felt or what exactly). The feelings of infatuation I suddenly felt for you were somehow stronger and more sustained than feelings I have had for anyone else.

This was very strange to me and I attempted to hide it to not let it get in the way of learning from you(and being almost certain that you would not feel the same way and I would feel stupid and guilty for admitting it...). I realize these feelings are professionally inappropriate, probably unethical, humiliating to me, etc. After several hours of thinking about whether I should tell you about this, how I should say it, etc. I finally decided I should send this email. I did not come to the decision easily, and I apologize for an pain/annoyance it might cause you. I am embarrassed for having developed these feelings to this point but I hope you can forgive me as it was accidental. I really feel like I just lost my head in a sense...It somehow feels worse to me to continue to hide these feelings, or somehow force myself to stop feeling them, than to just admit them(maybe I am very wrong about this). I hope that by discussing it with you, I can come to a better understanding of myself/life.

3.) today, I feel like I have a slightly more mature view. There is still a feeling that I want to be weirdly attached to you personally, like whenever I see you or think about you personally it's like things really go off inside me in a lot of ways. But I have realized, I think, that part of what is driving this(beyond psychological speculation like attachment theories, my own basic immaturity, narcissism, etc) thought process, is just a very deep desire to understand things, and a feeling that you can help me/might be willing to help me(this might be a self-aggrandizement or distortion too, but it is how I feel now). Thinking rationally, I would say that it's sort of foolish of me, like a glitch, to claim to realize what I want is knowledge and understanding, but to keep thinking about you specifically at the center of this desire instead of just thinking for myself(or finding a different qualified teacher). I hope that by confessing this, it might help me to stop ruminating about this and that you might be able to help me find some clarity. I am sorry to burden you with this and I think it must be very weird to hear that a student that you didn't know very well feels like he's in love with you has been thinking about you for the past year. I have concluded that I can't be sure how you feel about me, but I really do not think that you reciprocate the feelings—it seemed to me that you were in a happy marriage(you literally wrote a paper defending monogamy), never expressed any sign of attraction to me, etc. which is why I never really attempted to say anything about it, hoping that the feelings would just fade as crushes tend to do—but it's been so long now and it still hasn't gone away. I've also considered that maybe this is all just a very base, immoral sort of lust/self-aggrandizement which I am now trying to justify through some story-if that is the case, I am not doing it consciously.

As I said, I think this is basically related to a desire to develop better understanding and to the idea you could help me do that and eventually go to philosophy graduate school(as I

think this is the best place to develop my understanding in the sense I want to further). One of the things that made me feel shame in your class was you said something along the lines of “maybe I’d say you should stop smoking weed but maybe you know better”(I don’t know if you were saying that because I had started coming to your class stoned or it was just coincidence, but I thought about it so much, I guess I hadn’t taken it seriously before that it was wrong to smoke weed in this practical way because I just thought people who told me not to were full of shit. That used to be my motto was that people were largely just full of shit.). Well, I guess I finally accepted that in that case(and many others) I was wrong(or at least I realize how full of shit I am). I have found that it is incredibly difficult to develop the kind of understanding(about almost anything complicated) while being a pot-head, so I have decided to stop smoking weed so much because I desire the understanding more than I do weed(I still think eventually I might smoke in moderation, but never like I used to). I want to know and understand better, in an independent and deep way, but I feel like I lack direction now. I’ve always been a curious person with a desire to understand certain things, but now I feel a desire for what I take to be a superior kind of understanding. I want you to know (for what it’s worth, I think your own thoughts on the situation will be more accurate) that I really don’t think these feelings are do to any fault in your teaching and I don’t take it that you have done me any harm. This is a result of an amalgamation of actions/thoughts(many of which I have now accepted as bad). Really, this experience has helped me directly see/feel the value in real knowledge, taking practical ethics seriously while maintaining an interest in theoretical philosophy(and the possible connection of these), and attempting to have some sort of consistent world view.

4.) I have really decided that I want to go to philosophy graduate school. I feel that being in a philosophical community is extremely good for me—my time studying philosophy at auburn was mostly a time of immense enjoyment, liveliness, and personal growth for me. I like reading and talking about philosophy together with other people who are seeking to understand together. I desire to gain better analytical skills and understanding which I feel I could develop in graduate school. Last time we met, you said you wouldn’t recommend that I go to graduate school for philosophy. I was hoping that you might elaborate on that—I am afraid that you mean that there is something in my personality/situation that would make me not cut out for it.

I have been trying to study philosophy on my own. I became obsessed with Twitter and trying to talk to people on there about philosophy but found it very difficult to make any connection with anyone. I have read various articles, revisited Simone Weil and Plato,

listened to lots of lectures and podcasts. I just feel like my ability to write anything decent has only degraded since writing my last philosophy papers. I regret not working harder and getting my mental-life together while I was in school so I could have written better papers and learned more then. I'd really appreciate having you helping me with this process if you would. I think working these last 10 months has also helped me develop more discipline which will make it easier to study philosophy. I am willing to do a lot of work and take whatever direction you can offer me. I think I could be a productive graduate student in philosophy--writing good papers, going to talks, being a good teacher, etc.

I feel like I know you well enough that you can hear me say all that weird stuff about love and not be too put off by it, but if I'm reading that wrong and you're just totally offended at me for saying these things, then that's ok and I'm sorry. There is a nervous part of me(which feels like a younger me which might have been smarter because at least it had some sense of independent direction even if it was unreasonable) would be saying that I'm being insane right now-that I am just totally out of line. I am sorry to drop this all on you in the middle of the semester when you are busy--please take your time in responding to me.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart 9/24/2021]

Dear Matthew,

I wanted to let you know that I received your email, and I appreciate the thoughtfulness it conveyed. I also wanted to express sorrow over the anguish that you've been feeling. Before saying anything else, I should remove any doubt from your mind as to whether I reciprocate these feelings. You're correct that I that I don't. I also think that it's very plausible that your feelings are an expression of your interest in pursuing the true and the good.

In discouraging you from philosophy, I didn't mean to indicate anything negative about your capacities, but to say something about the state of the discipline, the profession, and the

kinds of activities (outside of philosophy) that have increasingly seemed to me most conducive to finding the kind of truth and understanding that you describe. I think that you are an incredibly talented student and that you could have as good a chance as most at having a successful career in philosophy if that's what you were to choose to pursue. (One caveat here is that many very talented people don't have successful careers in this field, simply because there are so few jobs.) I'd be happy to support you if you go down this path by providing resources and to connect you with people who could serve in a mentoring capacity. I'd also be happy to help you explore other options besides graduate school, such as programs for vocational discernment that involve intentional community.

You expressed that you thought that I could hear everything that you were telling me without taking it the wrong way, and I appreciate your confidence in me. You give a very lucid and reflective account of your thoughts and feelings, and as it turns out, I know that this terribly vexing pattern of thinking isn't unusual. Psychologists have done some work on it, and I could recommend a book that might prove illuminating in some respects.

best,

Jennifer Lockhart

[From ME 9/24/2021]

Dr. Lockhart,

Thank you for your quick response. It is extremely relieving to hear all of this. I am glad that you recognize the kind of understanding I mentioned and I am curious about your thoughts on how to best develop it—whether by studying philosophy or not. One thing I have thought is that the sort of understanding I'm looking to develop isn't exclusive to graduate study in philosophy-but it might be my best (basically related to monetary constraints).

I would definitely read a book on this. I feel very confused and regretful for thinking the way I have, and I am afraid it will happen again unless I gain more insight into it. Thank you again for your gracious response and I hope when I get past this I will be able to have good, focused professional/philosophical discussions.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart 9/29/2021]

Matthew,

Would you like to have coffee sometime and talk about graduate school, etc.?

best,

Jennifer Lockhart

[From ME 9/30/2021]

Dr. Lockhart,

Yes that sounds good. What is a good day/time for you?

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart 10/1/2021]

Would Wednesday at 1:30 work for you?

[From Matthew Correia 10/2/2021]

Yes, that works for me. Should we meet at Coffee Cat again or some other place? Thank you for sending me information about that APA event. I will attend it.

—

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart 10/6/2021]

How about Well Red?

[From ME 10/6/2021]

Sounds good, see you there.

…

[From ME 10/7/2021]

I am just following up on our meeting yesterday:

I wanted to tell you that, although I haven't looked very deeply into specific graduate schools, I have looked into University of Chicago some—in particular I admire the work of Johnathan Lear, Ben Laurence, Martha Nussbaum (all of whom I was introduced to in your classes), James Conant (who I came across while studying Wittgenstein in meta-ethics), Michael Kramer (who i randomly discovered making interesting Tweets on Twitter, but have not read much of), and Agnes Callard (I have read a lot of her work, both public and academic writings, in particular and listened to many podcasts she has been on). I also recognize some of the other names on the faculty from random stuff that has interested me over time. My feeling is that it would be a very good "intellectual milieu" to be a part of. I think I lied to you because I felt like you'd think it was weird (but thinking now, I don't really think it's any weirder than admitting that I love you).

So I lied about that and I apologize. One of my personal goals is to stop casually lying in cowardly attempts to avoid "embarrassing" myself. I am afraid that you will think my internet in these philosophers is superficial because my initial interest in them stemmed from my "limerence" for you (even though, as we discussed, it is difficult to fully take these things apart and I was interested in philosophy, psychology, religion, weil, Plato, etc before I met you—Dr. Callard's take on Socrates in particular resonates with things that I had been thinking about since reading my first Socratic dialogue, the Meno).

It would have been more accurate for me to say I have looked into a few places, including University of Chicago, but I worry that my interest is superficial because it more directly stems from this "limerence" I feel towards you. I was very glad to hear from you that you specifically think I'd enjoy the work being done there. I downplay my interest (1) because I am afraid of rejection (from the school and from you thinking it was weird) and (2) I agree with your idea of going through the faculty for each program, and I don't feel confident saying which schools I'm most interested in before I do that.

Since I stopped smoking weed, my emotions feel like they have been coming in waves—like I had big rush of guilt for lying (that inspired this email) but I didn't really feel guilty in the moment for it (I think I was also thinking about so many things, and it just happened very quickly). I find it difficult to manage the interests in being honest and cohesion in relationships, but the more experience I gain the more I have agreed with the common-sense notion that "honesty is the best policy". Also I wanted to be clear that whenever I said "now that I see you" I was only meaning to say just meant that I feel very weird for the way I have acted and seeing you in person brought that to a head.

Anyway, I hope that we can meet again somewhat soon, maybe in a month or so. There are other things I am interested in talking with you about. I also think I was wrong to so clearly split up the "professional"/"personal" thing. By talking about this split, I only mean to say I will respect the personal boundaries you set and that a weight has been taken off me now that have said that you do not reciprocate the "love" feelings I have for you. I do not that this means we can't talk about any personal things (and I think these personal conversations can relate to philosophy). I feel a connection with you that is quite rare to feel in my experience, and I really want to have a continued conversation with you, even if we talk rarely (one of my fears is that you don't really want to talk to me so I was happy you said you'd like to meet again). I am hoping I continue to feel better mentally from quitting smoking. I enjoyed speaking with you. I have also emailed Dr.(s) Gorodeisky, Jolley, and Long for help starting my writing sample.

I will send that note about understanding and my interest in graduate school in the next day or two, I found it but am going to edit it to clarify the idea.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From ME 12/7/21]

Hi Dr. Lockhart,

I am just writing to update you on my situation with graduate school: I have finished a draft of a writing sample (which I hope to meet with Dr. Long about soon) and decided that I will apply to some schools. I am just letting you know that in the next day or so you will probably get some emails from some graduate programs asking you for a letter of recommendation.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart on 12/10/21]

Dr. Lockhart,

I have become very worried about your lack of response to this email--I have not heard back from you or any other professors regarding my letters of recommendation or my writing sample. I suspect this is at least partially due to the situation between us--and that you have told these other professors about the emails I sent you and decided to ignore me. Could you please at least tell me whether or not this is true so I can (1) find at least some partial relief from worrying as this has been extremely hard on me and (2) begin to seriously consider/deal with the ramifications of this on my life. I had all my dreams pinned on the idea of becoming a philosopher, I feel like my work will be wasted, and I would do anything possible to earn your trust back to the degree needed for you to recommend me to graduate school.

If this email is an overreaction, I apologize. I have been racked with guilt about how I acted to you, and I feel like I didn't handle it well.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart 12/10/21]

Dear Matthew,

Please forgive me. I'm not great with emails at the best of times, but during finals week I've gotten a bit behind. I was planning to write to you, although it was thoughtless of me not to have done it sooner, keeping in mind that of course a timely response would be important to you.

Like I told you before, I'm very happy to write you a letter for graduate school. I was going to ask you to send me your writing sample, CV, and statement of purpose to help me with the letter. Also, it would be great to have a list of the schools you're applying to along with the application deadlines for each.

I was going to ask you if you had written to Dr. Gorodeisky and Dr. Jolley. I think that their feedback (along with Dr. Long's) on your writing sample would be very helpful. I haven't told them about your emails to me before. I can only guess that their lack of response has to do with the typical busyness of the end of term.

That said, I do worry that it may be a little late to be soliciting letters at this point (depending on when the deadline is). I'm happy to write one, but I do think that it's common for people to give professors a little more advance notice. Ideally, your writing sample would have been through a few rounds of drafting as well, having incorporated feedback from multiple professors.

I don't think this means that you can't or shouldn't apply to graduate school in this round of applications. But I do think it means that it's a bit rushed, and so you absolutely shouldn't despair if it doesn't come together for you this time. Maybe it will, but if not, keep working on it for the next round of applications, and make sure to be in touch with some of these professors to talk about your work over the coming year.

I wish you the very best. And again, please accept my apology for not getting back to you sooner.

best,

Jennifer Lockhart

[From Me 12/10/21 and 12/11/21]

Dr. Lockhart,

Thank you for responding, and I apologize for overreacting. I should have been more patient especially given that it is finals week, and I shouldn't have waited so long to ask about this to where I would become so worried to convince myself of that story.

I emailed Dr. Gorodeisky and Dr. Long my writing sample but have not heard back from either of them yet. I had emailed Dr. Jolley for help originally, and he said he would get back to me and never did. I will try emailing him again. I do think my essay could use a lot more work. I am never a good judge of my own writing, so if Dr. Long and Dr. Gorodeisky get back to me in the next couple of days and tell me they think it is already good enough (and they are willing to write a recommendation letter on short notice) I might still apply just to see what happens. I will let you know if that turns out to be the case. I had been intending on applying to a couple of programs that don't have deadlines until a little further out in January (Northwestern and University of Washington, Seattle), but Chicago and some others are on December 15th. I have not even written a statement of purpose or updated my CV yet, but I will work on that tonight/tomorrow (whether I end up applying this year or next year). I realize now I was not putting enough consideration into how much I was asking for from you and the other professors on short notice--I apologize for that.

You are right that it would have been ideal if I had asked for all this a lot earlier. I was thinking that I should finish my writing sample before asking for letters of recommendation, and I wasn't able to finish it as quickly as I thought I would when I originally told you I intended on applying. I should have been more proactive in asking for help with my writing.

I think I still need to get myself together more--I hoped that I could put myself in a position to have graduate school to look forward to next year, but I failed to put everything together. I am going to take some time to do some reading, get some more therapy, etc. and approach those professors for help with my writing/general philosophical direction (I was hoping maybe one of them would start a reading group again). I have let a lot of my habits/thoughts degrade over the last couple of years, and I need to get everything in order so that I can accomplish this. I do still hope that one day we can talk about philosophy together again. I wish you the best too.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

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r. Lockhart,

Attached are my CV, writing sample draft, and personal statement. I might end up revising these significantly, especially if I end up waiting to apply until next year. Let me know if you have any questions or comments (Please do not feel any pressure to comment on my paper as we agreed that I would work with the other professors on it, but I would, of course, read any feedback that you have on it if you wish to say anything). I have a very harsh view of the paper myself (I might just start over with a new topic if I reapply next year depending on the feedback I get), but I have felt that way about papers before and then gotten good grades on them. So I am honestly not sure how close it is to being a good writing sample.

Looking at the due-dates for the applications, it seems like the University of Chicago is the only one I had planned on applying to that is due in the next few days . I will see what Dr.

Long, Dr. Gorodesiky, and Dr. Jolley think about the paper/overall situation (I just emailed them again and hope to hear back soon) and will let you know, but I really appreciate you being willing to write a letter on such short notice. I apologize again for my lack of earlier communication.

As for the list of schools I am applying for: I will send you a full list in the coming days, but the only one that is due imminently (on the 15th) is Chicago. I have found the process of deciding which schools to apply for the be more difficult and time-consuming than I imagined. Also, and this is obviously not your problem (I am just venting)—but in the midst of all the covid-stuff, relative social isolation, and a new, overwhelming (for me) work schedule, I honestly have let this whole thing become a sort of mental escape from the boring job I have now (and I think this way of thinking about it has been stress inducing, this is something I plan on talking to my therapist about). I started overthinking a lot, I became very self-absorbed and acquisitive in a way that I had not experienced before--the whole thing is just bad (and this is all together with trying to completely quit marijuana/other stuff we discussed). I am grateful though that I have at least learned some things about myself that I can try to improve upon.

I do know, as you said, it's best not to despair if things don't come together this year. Thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

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Dr. Lockhart,

I have already decided to revise part of my personal statement (clarifying what I think I could get out of philosophical education and adding a short paragraph addressing my less than stellar overall GPA). I'm sorry...I wish I had worked on this earlier as well as I keep

wanting to change various aspects of it. I didn't realize how difficult it would be to write a 'personal statement'.

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Matthew Correia

...

Dr. Lockhart,

I am writing to tell you that, after consulting with Dr. Jolley about my paper, it appears that it is not ready to be used as a competitive writing sample (though he thinks it could be developed into a paper that could be). I also have not been able to find a third person to write a letter of recommendation on such short notice.

I am just letting you know that you don’t need to worry about writing a letter of recommendation. I will have to wait until next year to apply to graduate school.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

...

Dr. Lockhart,

I am sorry to email you again so quickly, I have just not been thinking about this in a straightforward way.

I do respect the opinion that the paper isn't likely to be competitive, but I think I would still like to apply this year and just see what happens. My reasoning is that it won't do any harm

to try to apply, and the possibility of getting into a graduate program next year is enticing enough to me that it would be worth it to apply even though it is likely that I will be rejected.

With that said, if you have time, I'd appreciate you still writing a letter of recommendation. I am so sorry for my lack of commitment, etc.--overall I have not been very rational about this process.

This was the list of schools I was planning to apply to: University of Chicago, Toronto, Pittsburgh, Notre Dame, Northwestern, University of Washington (Seattle) and University of Texas (Austin).

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

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[From me 1/26/2022]

Dr. Lockhart,

I was wondering if now that some time has passed, you would be willing to help me/speak with me about my writing sample. Dr. Long and Dr. Jolley are helping me, but I would also really like to speak with you about it. You said that, due to my feelings for you, "it wouldn't do me much good" to speak with you about it. I was hoping you might reconsider this. The advice I received from you regarding papers in the past (when I took your classes) was very helpful.

As for my 'feelings' for you/personal stuff, there are some aspects of that I would still like to talk about with you about if you want to, but I don't want to make you uncomfortable again or not want to talk to me. I'll just say that I don't think they would get in the way of us having a good 'advisorial' relationship.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[From Jennifer Lockhart 1/31/22]

Dear Matthew,

I'm sorry, but I don't feel comfortable advising your essay. I have faith in Dr. Long and Dr. Jolley to guide you in your efforts, and I am confident that you will write an excellent paper. I would not like to discuss more personal matters. I admit that I am fallible and may be mistaken, but it doesn't seem to me appropriate or productive. I would not enjoy having such a conversation. I expect that this is a disappointment to you, but maybe to some extent you can trust my intuitions and judgments on this matter. I wish you the very best as you are working on your application for graduate school.

best,

Jennifer Lockhart

[From me 2/1/2022]

Dr. Lockhart,

It’s ok, I do trust your decision. I am sorry again for acting so weird. I feel bad for making you too uncomfortable to advise my essay.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correi

[From ME 2/18/2022]

Dr. Lockhart,

It’s ok, I do trust your decision. I am sorry again for acting so weird. I feel bad for making you too uncomfortable to advise my essay.

Sincerely,

Matthew Correi

[From Jennifer Lockhart 2/21/2022]

Dear Matthew,

None of this needs to be very complicated. I think that you are a talented student. I have not accused you of wronging me. I don't think you are a vicious person. I am not trying to punish you. But I have expressed an unwillingness to work with you on your graduate school essay and to talk with you further about your feelings for me. I humbly but seriously ask that you don't contact me about either one of these again.

best,

Jennifer Lockhart

[From me 3/2/2022, after Jennifer gave a speech on love at the AUPS]

Dr. Lockhart,

I am hesitant to respond to this. I think you might not be happy that I am given your last email, but frankly I am indignant and confused to the point that I am ignoring your request. I wonder how you can give such a wonderful speech about love in front of all those people, and then not entertain the idea of discussing the feelings I have expressed for you and having a continued relationship with me. Didn't you literally end the speech with the idea that it is good to try to love everyone? Then why do you refuse to love me or talk to me?

In the original email I sent you, I told you that I had run through many reductive explanations for my feelings, and had arrived at a state of a confused sort of love. I have been thinking about this, and I think hearing your speech helped me some. I think there is a

human process of falling in love, considering many reasons that it could be the result of some base tendencies or some sort of cultural perversion, etc., and eventually arriving at a deeper recognition of the love itself. In my opinion, it doesn't really seem to obfuscate or 'blind' us to the person/people we love, but it makes us seem them in a better, more open light. I think it might be similar to what Kierkegaard speaks about with becoming 'repulsed from the absurd/objectivity'? It is empowering/freeing to the subjective will to be in this kind of love.

Something about this openness induces, in my opinion, a deep sense of wonder and grace. I think that this is related to what the Bible says when it says "Love covers all sins"--we go through a process (Weil calls this the dark night of inclination) where we consider all of these things, but we ultimately arrive at something like a subjective understanding of the good through love of another person. Perhaps this "blinds" us to the beloved, by causing us to miss out on what others would see as beguiling tricks, and to see it purely as love, like naivete--but you could also say this process reveals the of the good in people (so the idea is the blinding allows us to see the 'real' good in that individual person).
Ultimately, love allows us to, at least, live with our sinful nature, and maybe to hope to go beyond this.

Simone Weil has this idea that beauty is a snare, "But beauty is a snare of God's to obtain our consent to the obedience to which he constrains us." & "This universe is a snare for capturing souls, in order to deliver them, with their consent, to God. It is the eternal model for punishment."

and she contrasts her view of beauty as 'delivering us to God' with the view of the 'mistrusting masses' "The only difficulty lies in the painful mistrust—alas,

only too well founded—of the masses, who look upon any slightly elevated proposition as a snare set to trap them".

Anyway, I think this process describes my feelings for you. I feel this intense, deep love for you. When I see you, hear you speak, I feel energized and it makes me feel happier for days after. It is easier for me to do work and just generally be a good person--I feel like I become a better person by mere exposure to you. I think about you often and I miss you. Because of these feelings (and that I still feel that I have never experienced this in the same way with anyone else and I doubt that I ever will) I literally feel that you are the most significant

person in my life, at least in the last few years. I want very badly to discuss these feelings with you. I want to be friends with you, for you to accept my love for you, and love me in return. I don't need to be around you all the time, but it would help me so much if you would be willing to do this. The idea that we can not be friends/that you won't accept my feelings makes me feel extremely hopeless. Please, if you disagree, can you at lest entertain this idea on its merits in an open discussion with me rather than making these empty, short-winded responses. I feel like a beggar asking you for food, even giving you reasons to feed me, and you are like a rich aristocrat walking by with the response, "that is not appropriate" and "I am not willing to help you" as if these statements on their own justify the flouting of obligations toward others.

I think, again, this tendency to turn toward these meta-philosophical issues is actually anti-intellectual and anti-philosophical in the mold that Socrates laid out. You are using these ideas the 'appropriateness' & your 'unwillingness' to suppress discussion and argument. I honestly think you know this, and I largely think you are being ironic in your replies to me (this discourse stirs lots of thoughts in me). I also want you to explain this to me--why would you allow me to feel so bad about the original emails I had sent you if you have this understanding of love instead of to discussing this openly with me? If you say we should love everyone, why do you not say you love me?

Sincerely,

Matthew Correia

[Last email before I was formally banned from emailing Jennifer. I did not email her again, but attended philosophy events on campus. After attending one that Jennifer was at, I was banned from all philosophy events and the Haley center, one of the campus's main buildings.]